

Association for the Abolition of Animal Experiments

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Founded in 1979 under the name of CIVIS

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The Fallacy of Animal Experimentation:

Product Safety

All tested on animals as prescribed by law:

«Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments»

Concerning product safety, the *Committee for Health and Research* in Zurich, Switzerland, writes: «Animal experiments ensure the preservation of our health and the protection of humans, animals and the environment. Every product and every substance has to be tested on animals to assure its safety and harmlessness. In this respect, it makes no difference if the substance is used in medicines or chemicals.» Is this true?

Consolidated List of Banned Products

The *United Nations*, in cooperation with the *World Health Organization*, publishes a 1500-page catalog with the title «Products Banned» in which a limited selection of approximately 1200 pharmaceuticals, agricultural and industrial chemicals, as well as consumer products are listed which have been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or not approved by 121 governments during the last 50 years due to their harmful or lethal effects in humans. According to the medical journal *The Lancet*, some of these products have caused an estimated 10,000 to 30,000 cases of illness, birth defects or death in humans.

Overall Drug Failure Rate of 97%

According to an analysis (2012) of the *American Pharmaceutical Benchmarking Forum*, a staggering 95% of all drugs found to be safe and therapeutically effective in animal tests fail during clinical trials on humans due to their toxicity and/or inefficacy, and are therefore not approved

by the *American Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*. Furthermore, according to a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (2017), approximately one third of the remaining 5% of the drugs which do gain FDA approval must later be withdrawn or relabeled due to severe, unexpected side effects. This corresponds to an overall failure rate of 97%.

Human Victims of Animal Experiments

According to a report (2008) of the *EU Commission of the European Communities*, approximately 200,000 patients die in the European Union every year due to adverse drug reactions, which corresponds to the fifth leading cause of death in the EU. According to a study (2012) of the *American Institute for Safe Medication Practices*, adverse drug reactions are also the fifth leading cause of death in the United States, where they account for approximately 130,000 deaths every year.

Industry Not Liable for Damages

Animal experiments clearly cannot ensure product safety and serve in fact an entirely different purpose: In cases of death or disability caused by chemicals or adverse drug reactions, the responsible chemical and pharmaceutical firms can claim that they performed the legally prescribed «safety tests» on animals and are therefore not liable. As a result, the victims or their families for the most part come away empty-handed after suing for damages.